

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

The examiner identified two groups of invention, Group I containing Claims 1-23, drawn to a method of installing a pipe in a borerhole and Group II containing claims 24-43, drawn to a pipe assembly.

Applicants provisionally elect the claims of Group II.

Applicants traverse the restriction requirement on the basis that the two groups of claims relate to pipe technology, and a search and examination of the claims of Group II would probably overlap or encompass the search field for the claims of Group I.

It is thus submitted that a simultaneous search for both groups of claims can be made without substantial increase of the search effort.

Accordingly, it is believed that the following guidelines of MPEP §803 are applicable,

“If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.”

Withdrawal of the restriction requirement and simultaneous examination of both groups of claims are thus respectfully requested.

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1082-49 Response to Restriction Requirement

Respectfully submitted,

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